

D. H. SPRINGHOUSE
3010 Sandy Hook Road
Forest Hill vicinity
Harford County
Maryland

HABS MD-1236
HABS MD-1236

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

D. H. SPRINGHOUSE

HABS No. MD- 1236

- Location: 3010 Sandy Hook Rd, Forest Hill vic., Harford County, Maryland.
- Significance: This unique structure functioned as both a springhouse and schoolhouse for the Smithson family. It was built in 1816 by celebrated local mason David Hopkins (D. H.) and exhibits exceptional stone masonry craftsmanship.
- Description: The springhouse is set into a hill at the edge of Deer Creek. It is a diminutive stone structure with a gable roof. The main walls are coursed ashlar stone with an arched opening for the springhouse at ground level. The rear walls are uncoursed ashlar. The school house was located on the upper floor and entered from the rear. The front gable features a tablet with the mason's initials and the date and a decorative relief carving surround with a broken arch pediment and Ionic columns. A carved stone finial topped by a stone ball caps this gable end. Other ornamentation includes carved scrolled window surrounds.
- History: This combination springhouse/schoolroom was built for William Smithson and quickly became a Harford County landmark due to its fine craftsmanship. It was built and signed by celebrated local mason David Hopkins in 1816. The springhouse occupies the ground floor and still features shelves for keeping foodstuffs cool. The upper level contained a private one-room school. This whimsical structure well represents the fine construction with local stone that is a hallmark of extant early-nineteenth century Harford County architecture.
- Sources: Christopher Weeks, *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 283-84.
- Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2006.
- Project Information: This short form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of Harford County, Maryland. During 2005 HABS staff photographer James Rosenthal photographed a series of sites in Harford County in preparation for the *Buildings of Maryland* publication. Maryland Historical Trust sponsored the photography project and is producing *Buildings of Maryland* as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' *Buildings of the United States* series.